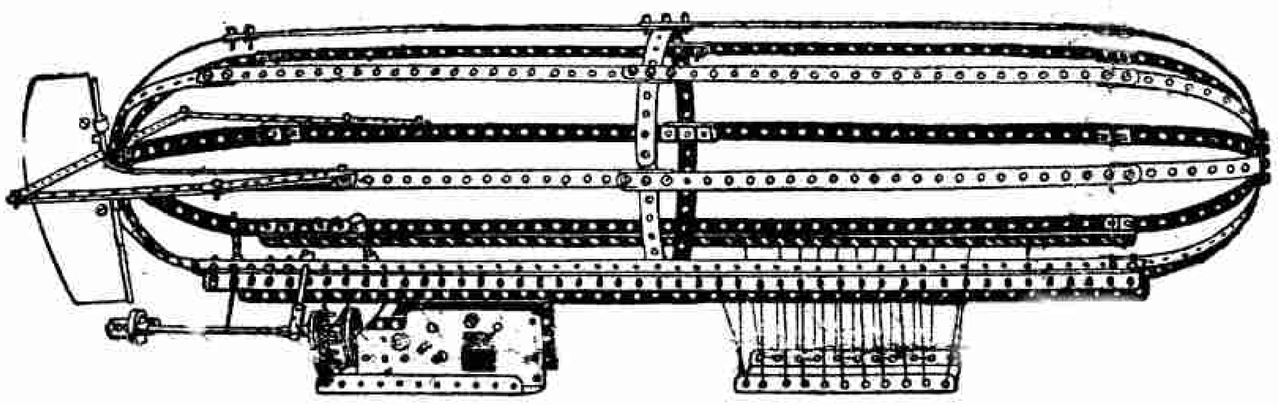
No. 14 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1920

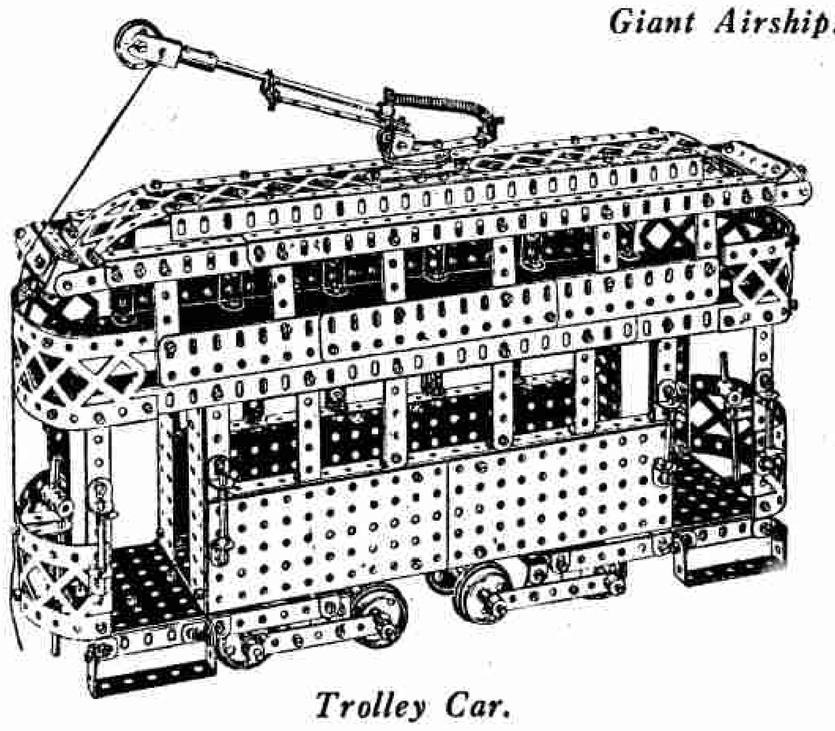
MECCANO MAGAZINE

PRICE ONE PENNY

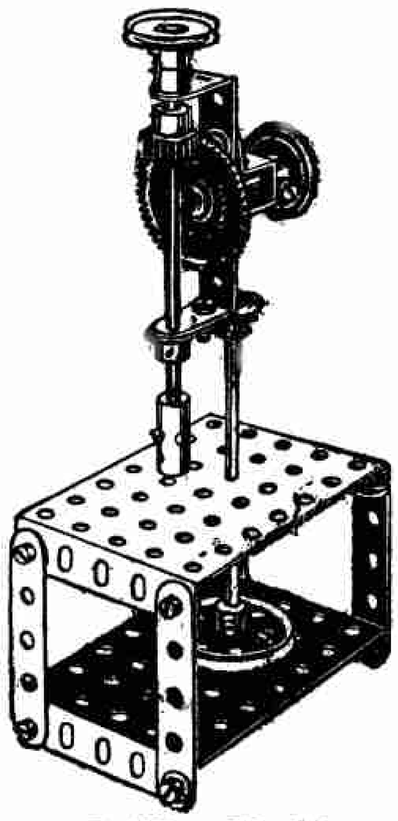
TO HELP MECCANO BOYS TO HAVE MORE FUN THAN OTHER BOYS



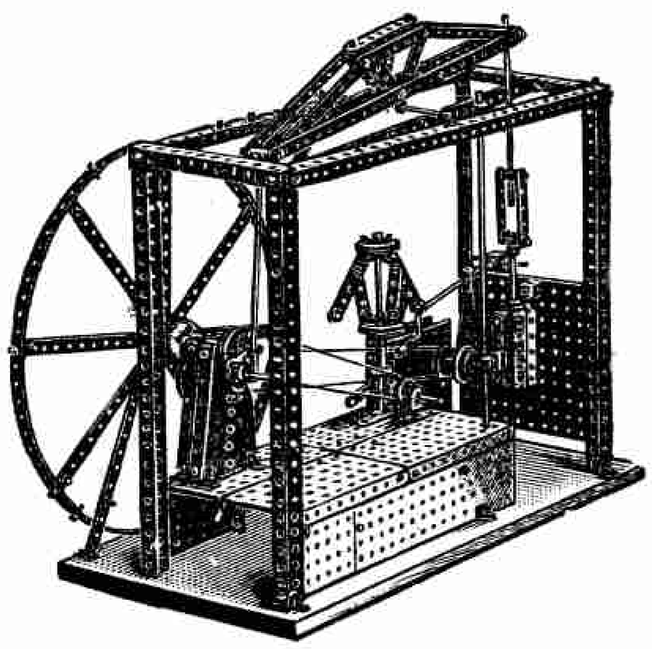
Giant Airship.



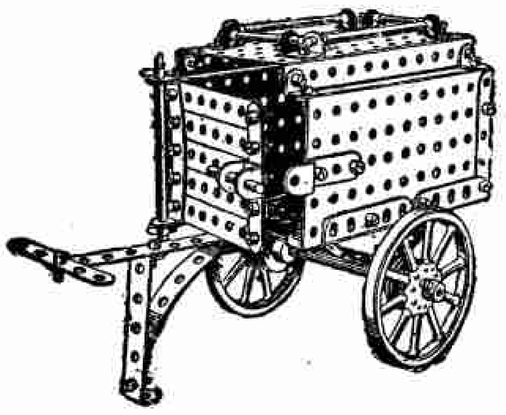
Trolley Car.



Drilling Machine.



Beam Engine.



Delivery Cart.

A few of the Meccano Models that can be built by any boy

EDITORIAL.

A Bigger Meccano Magazine.

I am quite sure that all my readers will approve of the *Meccano Magazine* in its new and bigger form. Even with the increased space, I am obliged to leave over many interesting things for future issues, and it looks as though we shall have to grow bigger still before we can do full justice to all the numerous Meccano topics.

Plenty of Fun This Winter.

The keen Meccano boy is not going to want for fun this Winter. There are Club nights with Lectures, Exhibitions, Concerts and Model-building sessions, and heaps of interesting Competitions of all kinds to keep him busy and happy at home. If you see a boy with a broader smile than usual on his face, you can set him down at once as a fully fledged Meccano boy.

The New Meccano Engineering Parts.

I hope that in their Winter model-building, all Meccano boys will make full use of the splendid new engineering parts which have been added to the Meccano system recently. They improve the models, and increase the fun tremendously. If you are not already familiar with them, send me a postcard and I will see that you get an illustrated list of them.

Our New £250 Competition.

You should get familiar with the new conditions of this Contest without delay. This time it will be divided into sections, enabling boys of similar ages to compete with each other instead of the young ones competing with grown-ups. The last Contest was a big success, and the new one is going to be a record one.

Meccano Easily Obtainable.

We are working hard to perfect the distribution of Meccano right throughout the country, in order that a Meccano boy may be sure of getting at once any outfits or parts he may require, from the regular Meccano dealers in his town. Most progressive dealers are now wise enough to hold a full range of Meccano supplies, and as there is no shortage of either outfits or parts this year, there should be no repetition of the disappointments which were unavoidable during the war period.

Hornby Clockwork Trains

I advise all my readers to see these trains and to satisfy themselves of their great beauty and efficiency. They are meeting with nothing but praise, both from the dealers who sell them and the boys who use them. I want to warn you that supplies of foreign made trains have found their way into this country, and your only protection is to insist that what you buy has been actually made in this country.

The Future of the M.M.

The next issue of the *Meccano Magazine* will be ready on November 15th, and for the present it will be published bi-monthly. If you are not already a subscriber, you should either send in your subscription at once, or instruct your dealer to reserve a copy of each issue for you.

A Message from France.

I have received a letter from the Editor of the *Meccano Magazine* in Paris, in which he tells me that a number of French Meccano boys have expressed a desire to correspond with English Meccano boys on Meccano topics. Will any of my readers who would like to receive letters from a French boy and reply to them, communicate with me. All correspondence of this kind must be conducted on the lines of the Guild Correspondence Club, announced by the Secretary in this issue.

The Editor

On Guilds

(Continued.)

The Guild members banded themselves together and used all their great influence and power to resist the Bill, but although they managed to retain a great many of their rights and privileges from a commercial and social point of view, their colleges, churches and chapels were seized and confiscated.

The Guilds never recovered. The former strict rules were gradually relaxed, and little by little unscrupulous men won their way to power. They altered everything completely, and soon the Guilds became leagues or companies of employers and capitalists, who used them for grinding down the poor workmen and townspeople for their own profit. Efforts were made in Elizabeth's reign to restore the Guilds to their former purity of purpose, but they were of no avail, and with the growth of civilization it is doubtful if they can ever exist again as they did hundreds of years ago.

But although the old ideal of the Guild is dead, the spirit that animated it is as alive to-day as ever.

Members will be interested to know that in choosing the name "Meccano Guild," the idea of starting a movement based on the splendid ideals and traditions of the old Guilds was foremost in our minds, and in assisting to build up a spirit of good fellowship and comradeship they will be creating friendships and happy times that will endure throughout their lives.

(Concluded.)

Life Story of Meccano

By Frank Hornby.

(Continued.)

Great skill is required in setting up these machines in the first place; and even after they are set up they have to be continually watched and fine adjustments made to ensure accurate production.

There are many machines in this department which are exceedingly fascinating to watch. The chain-making machine, for instance, which makes our sprocket chain, through which a plain wire is passed at one end whilst at the other a continuous length of completed chain emerges, is a most complicated and efficient machine which seems to be almost human.

Then there is the special machine for drilling the holes in our couplings. They are all drilled in one operation and it is exceedingly interesting to see the girl operating the handle and all the drills coming together on the coupling at the same time. You can imagine the time saved in using a machine of this type as compared with the usual way of drilling a hole at a time.

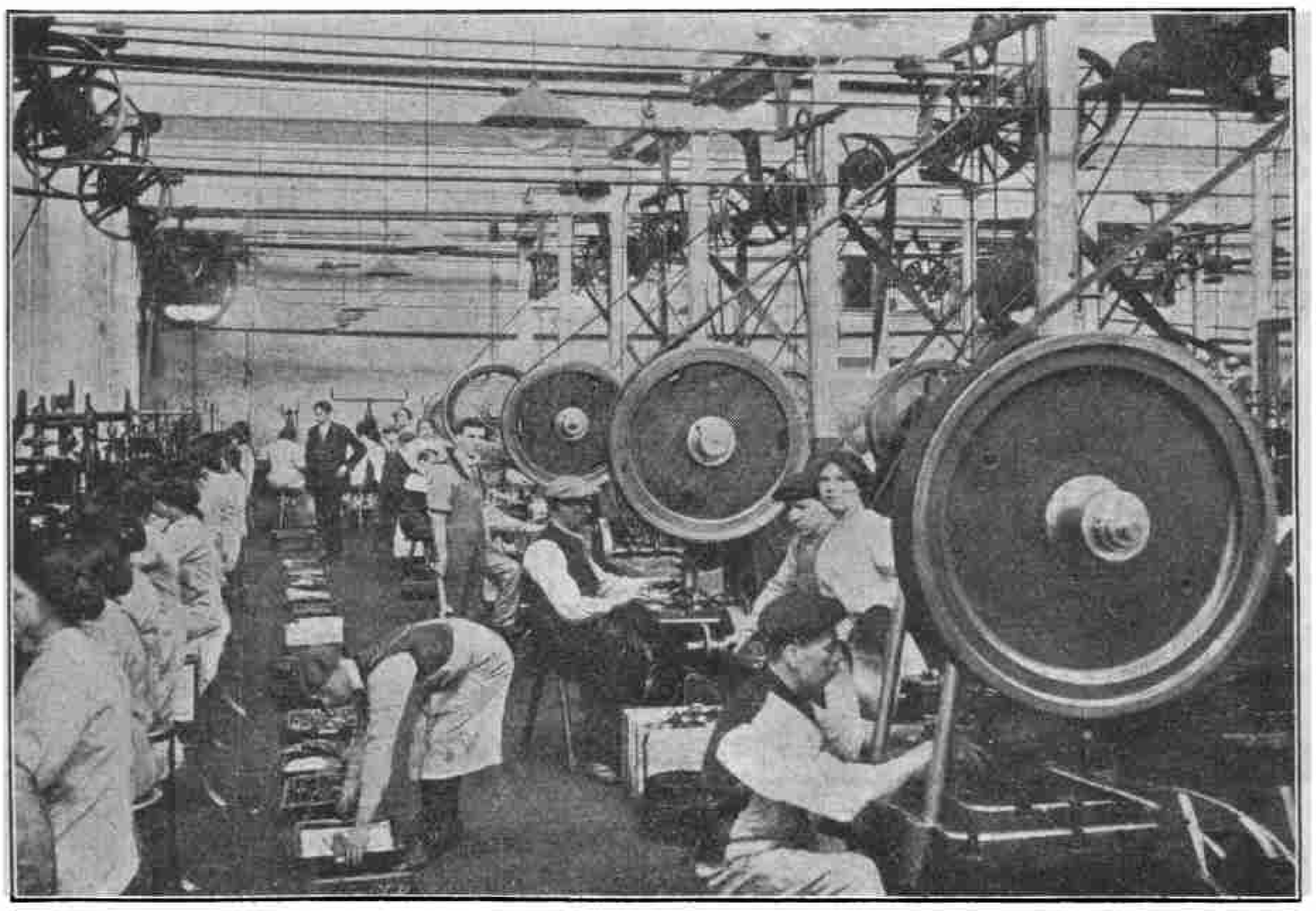
Another useful and ingenious machine is the one which we use for automatically assembling the setscrews into wheels.

I think, however, that the machines which would interest you most are those which are used for making our bolts. The bolts themselves are made from steel rod which comes to us in huge coils. The end of the rod is fed into the machine, which automatically cuts it off at the required length and puts the head of the bolt on it. These machines work at a tremendous pace and give a production of thousands of gross each per week. From every ton of wire which is fed into them, we receive a ton of bolts, there being absolutely no waste of any kind.

The next step in the process is cutting the nick in the head. The bolts are poured into the large hopper of a nicking machine and the machine itself sorts them into perfect order, one behind the other, and they go sliding down a groove which conveys them to a kind of circular saw which cuts the nick, after which, by a little turn of the machine, they are thrown into a container ready for the next process.

The operator then conveys them to another machine which rolls the thread on them. For this process they are again poured into a hopper and by the same mechanism as in the nicking machine they are arranged one behind the other, conveyed down a groove, and to that part of the machine which rolls the thread on them, one by one, as rapidly as you can count. These are the busiest machines you ever saw. They work with a will all day long, producing many, many millions of bolts during the year, exactly uniform in size and shape.

(To be continued.)



View of the Press Dept., Meccano Ltd.

The Meccano Guild

A Fellowship of Meccano Boys

The objects of the Meccano Guild are:

(*a*) To make every boy's life brighter and happier.

(*b*) To foster clean-mindedness, truthfulness, ambition, and initiative in boys.

(*c*) To encourage boys in the pursuit of their studies and hobbies, and especially in the development of their knowledge of mechanical and engineering principles.

It is just 12 months ago since the Meccano Guild was founded and the progress which this great boys' movement has made since then is amazing. The number of members already enrolled runs into tens of thousands. About 60 Affiliated Meccano Clubs guided by adult leaders, holding regular meetings, debates, lectures, concerts, exhibitions, &c., have been successfully launched, and are now in full working order, and some hundreds of Meccano Clubs have been formed and will be granted Guild certificates of affiliation as they comply with the Guild regulations.

The Guild Secretary is in regular correspondence with Club Leaders and Secretaries, and the coming Winter session promises to be one of the greatest activity and enthusiasm amongst Meccano boys. For the benefit of new Meccano boys and new readers of the *Meccano Magazine*, we are enclosing with this issue a re-print of the original announcement of the founding of the Guild so that they may know all that is taking place in the Meccano world.

Any boy who fails to join the Guild is withholding his friendship and help from the best and brainiest boys in the kingdom, and is also depriving himself of their help and companionship. The Meccano Guild stands for pleasure and enjoyment, instruction and progress, clean and straightforward living, and for bringing out what is best and most useful in boys.

After you have read the Guild Secretary's announcements in this issue we are confident that you will want to join up with the movement, give all the help you can to it, and take full advantage of the good things already announced and many others to come.

Club Notes.

By the GUILD SECRETARY.

ASCENSION.—Club Leader comments upon keenness of members and good attendance at meetings. Congratulations to the energetic secretary, Master M. Prater who recently won a scholarship, being first of 500 boys.

COALVILLE MECCANO CLUB.—Recently affiliated club. Mr. S. Leivers, the Club Leader, has drawn up an excellent programme for the Club's first session.

CIRENCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—An excellent start by those responsible for the promotion of this newly-affiliated club, and with energetic Master H. W. Inward, as secretary, the Club should make splendid progress.

CLAYGATE MECCANO CLUB.—The Claygate Meccano Club makes progress. A visit to the sewerage works proved very interesting and instructive, Mr. Britnell, the Assistant Club Leader, explaining the working of the machinery. Club trip to Brighton was a very enjoyable affair, thanks to the energies of Mr. Haynes and Mr. Britnell. Winter session commences Sept. 4th, and a splendid programme has been drawn up.

HOLY TRINITY.—Second annual exhibition held on June 26th was an unqualified success. Twenty models on view, including a Crane made from a "1901" set of Meccano. Fretwork models also exhibited, and a clever novel feature of the exhibition was "The Fine Art Gallery." Exhibition well patronised, and out of profits realised, £1 handed to St. Dunstan's.

GOSPORT.—Members have been kept together during the summer through the cricket club and the activities of Master H. Beane, the secretary; a busy winter session is anticipated.

FERRYHILL DISTRICT.—The progress made by this Club has been amazing. Affiliated with Guild in January, membership now 150. Mr. Banner's report for the session which ended in April, shows that the scope of the Club is both wide and varied. He writes:—

> "The Ferryhill District Meccano Club closed an interesting session by holding an Exhibition in the Town Hall on April 17th and 19th, the Hall being lent free of all charge for the exhibition and all weekly meetings by the Parish Council. Prizes for Meccano Models were given, and a special prize of a Meccano Motor, given by the Club Leader, was won by J. Bowtell. In the Girls' section of the Club, a needlework competition was held. In the Cardboard Model section for boys, the first prize was won by Maurice Harker.
>
> "About £7 was raised by means of this Exhibition, and this together with donations and subscriptions brought the Club's income for the year to a total of just over £15. There is a balance of over £10 with which to start the coming session."

Mr. Banner thanks all who have assisted, and appeals for further help to assist different sections of Club during next session.

NORWICH ENTERPRISE.—Personality of the Rev. A. B. Grosvenor is being unmistakably felt in Norwich, and this Club is proving as successful as the one he launched at Brightlingsea. Elsewhere will be found the motto chosen for the Club, and this together with the programme of meetings for coming season is contained in a neat hecktographed leaflet given to each member.

LEEDS.—Mr. Spink, the Club Leader, has gathered together a number of very enthusiastic Meccano boys, and Club is being conducted on sound lines. Any Leeds Meccano boys desiring to join a Club should communicate with the Secretary, Master C. G. Wilcock, 10, Park Terrace, Intake Lane, Stanningley, Leeds.

SPARKBROOK.—Master J. H. Weake, the secretary, makes a novel and clever appeal for new members through the "Birmingham Weekly Post."

> 138, Kyrwicks Lane, Sparkbrook.
>
> Dear Uncle John,—Will any nephews possessing outfits, living in Sparkbrook, Sparkhill, etc., and desiring to join a Meccano Club, please communicate with me? The Club is held once a week—every Wednesday evening. Full particulars from,—Yours truly, J. H. WEAKE.

Club continues to make excellent progress under the leadership of Mr. D. Pipes, and there is a full and interesting programme down for the winter season.

SMALL HEATH.—Mr. Edge, the Club Leader, recognises possibilities of a Meccano Club, and at opening meeting of the "Small Heath Meccano Club" impressed upon members that he desired to make the Club "a Club of comrades to assist each other in becoming real men, with active, clear, and clean brains." I have no doubt that Small Heath boys will respond to Mr. Edge's efforts.

ST. MARTIN'S (West Acton).—Recently affiliated. Rev. H. C. Williams has kindly consented to become president, and Club has a busy season before it under leadership of Mr. L. H. Sutton.

WALLINGBROOK.—The enthusiasm for the Club has been maintained through the summer as a result of activities of secretary, Master E. H. C. Edmunds. Recently a debate on relative merits of Electricity and Steam Power proved so popular that this new feature has been added to the Club's programme.

YARDHEADS.—Newly affiliated under the leadership of Mr. D. Burgess, schoolmaster—have the use of schoolroom. Members of Education Committee at opening meeting. Boys of Yardhead's School won Leith School Cup last year, and intend putting the same enthusiasm into their Meccano Club as they do in their football.

WASHINGBOROUGH. — Recently affiliated; under leadership of Mr. H. C. Treavett; boys enthusiastic, programme varied and interesting. An Exhibition arranged for early December.

WYNBERG MECCANO CLUB.—Had a very successful second session. Club meetings discontinued during July owing to the severity of the weather.

WALTHAM ABBEY.—Exhibition a big success. Good class of models built by members, afterwards exhibited in dealer's windows. Vicar of Parish has consented to be President of the Club.

LEAMINGTON.—Master G. Hare's excellent report shows that splendid work is being done. Several interesting lectures have been given, thanks to Mr. Bull, the Club Leader. These include "The Working Principles of Engines," by Mr. Jenkins, "Boat Building," by Dr. Harrison Butler, "How a Dreadnought's Guns are Worked," by Mr. Emerson, and "The Hotchkiss Machine Gun," by the Club Leader. Lectures illustrated by drawings, photographs and working models, greatly appreciated by members. The Club's stand at "Ye Olde Englysh Fayre" was very successful, and over £4 was raised. A guessing competition in which visitors were invited to guess the number of nuts and bolts in the Transporter Bridge brought over 100 entries at 3d. each, and the Meccanograph did a roaring trade at 2d. per design, visitors turning the handle themselves. Models built for the stand afterwards exhibited in a Meccano dealer's window, and attracted much attention.

Special Awards for Club Members.

I am most desirous of encouraging as far as I possibly can the reading of instructive papers by members at their Club meetings. This kind of training I consider to be most excellent for boys. To stand up before a meeting of his friends and address them upon a subject with which he has made himself familiar requires some degree of courage for a boy, but it is a splendid thing for him to do. The knowledge gained in reading up his subject is useful, and it is also a very fine thing for him to accustom himself to speaking in public. He is also serving his Club well in providing enjoyable and interesting evenings. I am, therefore, arranging special awards in the form of handsome bronze medallions for this work.

Each Club will be allotted two medallions, one for each Winter session, and they will be given to the boys who deliver the best papers. Any subjects may be selected, Engineering, Electricity, Woodworking, Stamp Collecting, &c. Boys may get any help from parents, Club Leader, or any other source, in the preparation of their papers, which may be illustrated by lantern slides, drawings, photographs, models, or in any other way. After they have been read at the Club meetings, the papers must be sent to me with any comments by the Secretary or Club Leader, and the adjudication will be made at the end of each session.

The medallions are very beautiful in both design and finish, and are being produced specially for us by Messrs. Elkington & Sons, Birmingham. Each one will be engraved with the name of the recipient.

I trust all Club Leaders will help me to make this valuable part of the Meccano Club work a very big success.

Each Member of the Guild gets a beautiful Certificate.

I am able to illustrate here a very beautiful Certificate, which our President wishes me to place in the hands of every member of the Guild. Mr. Hornby wishes each of you to have this Certificate framed in a simple way and put up in your home, preferably your bedroom, as a constant reminder of the splendid Guild objects which you have promised to further.

I am mailing out these Certificates to you as fast as I can have them made up, and each new applicant for membership will receive one along with his badge. I am quite confident that every member of the Guild will set a high value on his Certificate, and that he will treasure it as a sign of his association and friendship with a million of the best boys in the country.

Guild Recruiting Campaign.

How each Member can help the movement.

Hundreds of enthusiastic Guild members have written to me during the past 12 months expressing their keen desire to put in all the work they can on behalf of the Guild, and asking in what way they can help. Now is the time when they and all other Guild members can do a good turn to the movement. Where boys know and understand the objects of the Guild they come in enthusiastically and without hesitation, but there are many many thousands of boys in this country who are using Meccano regularly and who yet have never heard either of the *Meccano Magazine* or the Meccano Guild.

If the Guild is going to be the big success we have aimed at we must get all these boys in, and it is the duty of each Guild member to do his best to spread the knowledge of the Guild amongst them.

If each of our members brings in one Meccano boy our membership will, of course, be doubled, but I want more than that. I want each member to endeavour to recruit at least three new members, and to each of you who does this the Guild will award a very handsome oxidised silver medallion, of which any of you may well be proud. Our illustration is full size and it is one of the most beautiful medallions I have ever seen.

As a special award the boy who obtains the largest number of recruits between September 1st, 1920, and March 1st, 1921, will receive an exact duplicate of the medallion, but in solid gold with his name engraved on it, and to the boy who recruits the next greatest number a solid silver medallion will be awarded, similarly engraved.

Every boy desiring to take his share in this Grand Recruiting Campaign should notify me, and I will send him a number of Guild Application forms. He should write his own name and address and the date on the back of these so that they may be recorded in his favour. He must also send in a full list of his recruits with names and addresses before March 15th, 1921, when the awards will be made.

Wanted—A Guild Motto.

Every one of our members seems to want us to adopt a motto, and after all it is very excellent to set up an ideal in this way, and endeavour with all our might to live up to it. One of our most earnest and capable Club Leaders has adopted for his Club the motto "Keen and Clean," and in a well-worded message to his Club he has urged them to live up to this motto. When we do adopt a motto for the Guild we want it to be the best in the world, and I should very much like our members to give me their ideas as to whether or not we should adopt a motto, and if so, what that motto should be.

Special Cash Prizes for Guild Members.

You will see on another page of this issue that a new £250 prize competition is announced, and I want Guild members to carefully note the new conditions which govern this competition, especially that part of it which offers special cash prizes to members of the Meccano Guild. Neither myself nor anyone else connected with the Guild has anything to do with the awarding of prizes, but I shall certainly watch the next list of awards with great interest. I am keenly anxious that Guild members shall shine in the new big Contest and shall take away some of the numerous excellent prizes which are offered.

Apology to our Readers.

It was intended that this issue of the Meccano Magazine should be in the hands of our readers on September 1st, but, unfortunately, the grave printer's strike which affected Liverpool and Manchester rendered this impossible.

We must express our sincere regrets that so much delay has taken place. In future, the Magazine will be issued regularly every two months.

Meccano Guild Correspondence Club.

Meccano users have for long felt that they were members of a great brotherhood of boys, all thinking the same kind of thoughts, sharing the same pleasures and thrilled by the same ambitions. They yearn to know what kind of lives the other boys are living, to tell them about their own schemes and ambitions and to swap notes about Meccano model building, and all the other things which boys delight in. I have often been urged to start a Correspondence Club, and the founding of the Guild now makes this possible.

If you are a member of the Guild and you would like to correspond with another member in some other part of the country, just sit down and write him a simple letter, telling him where you live, what Outfit you have, which models you like best and anything about your home life or the place you live in which you think might interest him. Then send your letter to me and I will send it on to another member of the Guild in some other part of the country, who also desires to correspond.

Only the first letter need be sent through me, and after that you may correspond direct upon any subject which will make your letters bright and interesting. Meccano topics will, naturally, form the basis of your correspondence, for it is here that you meet on common ground. You can compare outfits, describe your experiences with the hobby and help each other generally to get further pleasure from building and inventing.

I should very much like all boys who enter into correspondence in this way to describe local industries and all that concerns them, as I feel that this will be the means of imparting useful and instructive knowledge. Before writing your letter will you please read the following rules very carefully and see that they are properly complied with :—

1. All correspondence will be arranged by the Guild Secretary.
2. Applications for enrolment with the Correspondence Club must state name, age, and address of applicant and father's occupation.
3. The first letter written must be sent through Head-quarters ; after that, correspondence will be carried on direct.
4. Photographs may be exchanged, but correspondents are not allowed to either send or ask for presents or gifts of any kind whatever.
5. The Guild Secretary has the right to call on any member at any time for the letters he has received as a result of introduction through the Correspondence Club.
6. Boys desiring to discontinue correspondence should mutually arrange with their partners, and also inform the Secretary.
7. A request for enrolment signifies that the applicant accepts these rules as binding and final, and that he intends to loyally abide by them.

Special Club Prizes.

I have been gratified to find that all the Meccano Clubs during the last session have made a special feature of Meccano model building at their meetings, and as I am very desirous of encouraging those features of Club work which provide most enjoyment, it gives me much pleasure to announce that the Guild has decided to make special contributions to the funds of those Clubs whose members excel in this work.

The Club which designs the best model, during each winter session, will receive a cash award of £5, and the Club which designs the second best model, an award of £3. Each model must be the joint work of the Club members, and must be started and finished at the Club meetings under the guidance of the Club Leader. There will be no restrictions in regard to the size or the type of the model, or the number of parts used in making it.

The judge will be our President, Mr. Frank Hornby, whose decision will be final. In judging, no special consideration will be given to the size of the model and the award will be based principally on ingenuity, novelty, and mechanical accuracy. The model itself should not be sent in for adjudication ; all that is necessary being a good, clear photograph or drawing with a simple description of any points which require explanation. Entries must be received at Guild Head-quarters, addressed Guild Competition, Head-quarters, Meccano Ltd., Binns Road, Liverpool, not later than January 15th for the first session, and May 15th for the second session.

Now, boys, here's a chance to do your Club a good turn, confer distinction on it and improve its financial position. Discuss the matter with your Leaders and Secretaries and let me know that you intend to compete.

The New Meccano Catalogue

Every Meccano boy should send for a copy of this beautiful new catalogue, which will be ready early in September. Besides illustrating and describing each outfit and explaining the simplicity and beauty of the Meccano system, it gives full particulars of the new electrical accessory outfits; the Hornby Clockwork train system which is making such a deep impression throughout the country; the Tin Printed Clockwork Trains and Vertical Steam Engines. It also contains a fully illustrated list of the entire range of Meccano parts including the new and valuable ones which have recently been added. It is an exceptionally fine production, and a copy will be sent to you on receipt of your request.

Meccano at the Jamboree

Those Meccano boys who visited the Jamboree held at Olympia, London, during the first week in August were fortunate boys indeed. The event was well conceived and excellently carried out. We visited it ourselves, and were much impressed by the keenness, enthusiasm, and cleverness of the boys who took part in it. We have never seen so many boys congregated together before, and the organisation must have felt proud of the success which crowned their earnest work. The Meccano stand was, of course, a great object of attraction, and all day long crowds of boys of all nationalities were eager witnesses of demonstrations of electrically-driven Meccano models and Hornby clockwork trains. Parents also came along in very large numbers to talk with our representatives and to register their appreciation of what Meccano had done for their boys, and their warm approval of the Meccano Guild and its objects. The Meccano models on display were an electrically-driven loco. and carriages, a warehouse with elevator, a magnetic crane, a Handley Page aeroplane, and a splendidly designed working model of a coal cutter driven by the Meccano clockwork motor.

In the Annexe, packs of Wolf Cubs were engaged all day in erecting Meccano models. A competition was run through the week and prizes were given to the packs who built the best models and showed the most cleverness. The utmost enthusiasm was shown, and the work was well and quickly done. The winning packs were: —

1st	3rd Chiswick	(100 marks)
2nd	D. Pack, Willesden	(97 marks)
3rd	3rd Salisbury	(95 marks)
~~4th~~	~~6th East Ham~~	~~(92 marks)~~

During the week several models were made by Boy Scouts at their own request, some of the American boys showing up very well in constructing original models.

The general public attended all the time in large numbers to witness the boys at work, and the stand proved to be one of the greatest attractions in the Wolf Cub section of the Jamboree. We should like to make special mention of Senior Sixer Robinson, 3rd Chiswick Pack, who showed great aptitude and keenness. He is sending along a photograph of his model aeroplane, which we hope to produce in a coming issue.

Insist on Meccano

Meccano is a unique building system, each of its parts representing a correct engineering unit, such as would be used by skilled engineers in actual work. There are no parts like them; most of them are patented and cannot be imitated, and without them it is impossible to build correctly.

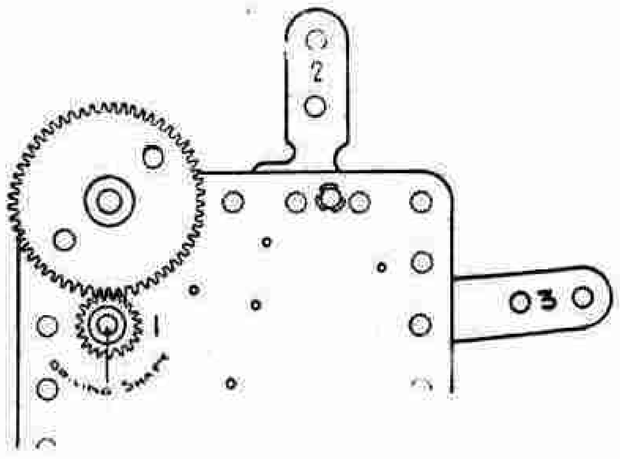
To be genuine, your outfit must bear the trade name Meccano. If it does not, you will get a worthless imitation and will meet with disappointment.

The Meccano Clockwork Motor

A large number of Meccano boys now possess the Meccano Clockwork Motor, which they use for driving the simpler models. By means of extra gearing, many of the larger models can also be driven, and our diagram shows how extra gears may be added when more power is required.

The wheel mounted on the driving-spindle is the ½in. Meccano pinion; the wheel engaged by the pinion is the 56-toothed gear.

Properly used, the Meccano Clockwork Motor will do excellent service for many years, and will greatly enhance the joys of model building by giving life and movement to the models.



Our full guarantee of efficiency is behind each motor, and it is our earnest desire that each one shall give the greatest satisfaction.

A New Grand
Meccano Prize Competition
£250 in prizes

A new big Meccano Model Building Contest has started, and we want every Meccano boy to know all about it. There will be hundreds of prizes awarded, including nine prizes in cash to the value of £100, and Meccano Outfits to the value of not less than £150. This time the Competition will be divided into three sections.

1. For boys under 10 years of age.
2. For boys between 10 and 14 years of age.
3. For boys over 14 years of age.

In addition to these prizes the Meccano Guild is offering three awards of £5 each in cash to the member of the Guild who gains the best prize in his Section. Forms of entry may be obtained either from your dealer or from us.

There are no restrictions or entrance fees. Any Meccano boy can enter, and the competitor sending in a simple model made with a No. 0 stands just as good a chance of winning a prize as one sending in a complicated model made from a No. 6 Outfit. This Competition will close on April 15th, 1921.

List of Newly Affiliated Meccano Clubs

CIRENCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL.
Leader—Mr. P. R. Sutton, 35, Ashcroft Road, Cirencester.
Secretary—Master H. W. Inward, 3, Corin Villas, The Avenue, Cirencester.

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Secretary—E. A. Canovas, c/o E. Howes & Co., Police Barracks, Gibraltar.

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Leader and Secretary—Mr. H. C. Treavett, Kirkby House, 104, Burton Road, Lincoln.
Assistant Secretary—Master R. Hamblett, Washingborough, Lincoln.

OUR MAIL BAG

The Editor has a little talk in this column with his Meccano boys. Whether he has space to reply to them all here or not, he is always glad to hear from them. He receives hundreds of letters each day and only those which deal with matters which are likely to interest other Meccano boys can be dealt with here.

Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write on one side of the paper only.

Mail Bag.

F. Chapman, Rodley.—The way to become friends with all the other Meccano boys and with Mr. Hornby is to read the *Meccano Magazine* regularly, and join the Meccano Guild. Live with them in Meccanoland, and we promise you that your life will cease to be dull and empty.

J. Bridgeman, Dublin :—

There was a young laddie I knew
Who complained he had nothing to do,
That reminds me," said Dad, "Meccano, my lad,
Is a very good hobby for you."

You have told us just sufficient to get us interested in the "young laddie" and then you have dropped him. What happened when he got his outfit, John?

Norman Cooper, Bebside.—You write a very intelligent letter, and we hope to hear from you often. We feel sure that if you can get your Meccano Club going you will do excellent work for it. Thanks for photograph.

A. Dickens, Stourbridge :—

"I say I like Frank Hornby
For his great invention;
And when he reaches seventy
We'll make him a nice pension."

Mr. Hornby feels awfully bucked over this, Alfred. He won't have to work so hard now.

P. Moscovitz.—Your suggestion that at some future time we offer free tickets to Liverpool and a tour round the Meccano Works as prizes for Meccano boys is not at all a bad one, and we shall have to seriously consider it.

M. A. Clements, Sparkhill.—We are quite sure that your Magazine "Nuts and Bolts" keeps you busy. It is a very creditable production, and we have read it from cover to cover, and enjoyed it. If you can keep it up to its present standard you will not lack readers.

T. J. Roberts, Liverpool.—You are certainly meeting with many difficulties in the formation of your club, but you display the spirit which surmounts all obstacles. We are sure you will succeed.

Betty Hoddinott, M.G., High Ham.—We are very glad to know of your keenness for model building. Of course you are not growing too old for Meccano. Thousands of girls older than you are getting the greatest enjoyment from the hobby.

David C. Ramsden, Leeds.—"This is the fourth time I have had the pleasure of acknowledging prizes from you, and I hope it will not be the last." We hope so, too, David! We shall look for your name in future prize lists.

W. R. Webb, Birmingham.—"I congratulate you on the excellency of the Meccano parts. I have constructed a cinema projector using solely Meccano bearings and cogs. The machine has been running with the same bearings for close on two years night after night." This is a most severe test, and we are glad to have such a good report from you.

N. C. Whitehead, Cardiff.—We realise of course that it would be unwise and possibly dangerous for members to wear the Guild badge when playing cricket or football, and the intention is that they shall be worn "whenever possible." We trust your trip to Belgium with the boys will be both enjoyable and instructive. You may be sure that we shall watch the doings of the Cardiff Central Meccano Club with very close interest.

Ernest Atkins, Sutton.—We want to warn you and all other Meccano boys against letters received from native boys in Africa. Most of them simply beg for presents to be sent out to them, and should be ignored. We are glad to see you so enthusiastic on Meccano Club matters, and we hope to help you a great deal this winter.

Allan C. Young, Folkestone.—We note your suggestion that a Competition among Meccano Poets would be popular. We wonder what those readers who are not poets think of this.

F. Smith, Black Hill.—"If the cog wheels had gone fast enough it would have been going yet, I do believe." So do we, and it is just the "if" which has so often beaten the searcher after Perpetual Motion. However, as the earth and other stellar bodies have been moving around for thousands of years without any apparent driving force, it is just possible that the problem of Perpetual Motion will be solved some day.

G. F. Norris, Louth.—Your scheme for raising funds for the cricket club by building a ship and then having a guessing competition as to its weight, at 2d. per guess, and a big box of chocolates for first prize, was a very ingenious one, and deserved all the success it obtained.

G. Marfell, Weston-super-Mare.—We are afraid that this so-called summer has been right against your plan for making Meccano models, &c., in the sand. Better luck next summer.

F. D. Masterson, Sherburn-in-Elmet.—Thanks for your valuable suggestions in connection with the Big Competition. It is far from being true that most of the prizes go abroad, but in any case we hope that all British Meccano boys will put their backs into the job this year, for the honour and glory of Britain.

Leonard Hewitson, Cumberland.—

"Of 'ort fules I iver mit,
There's nin like them that possess
A Meccano Outfit and dident git
The Meccano Magazine."

Not knowing the Cumberland dialect we won't try to criticise the accent, but we quite agree with the sentiment.

How to get the Meccano Magazine regularly

The Meccano Magazine is now sold by most of the regular Meccano dealers, but in order to prevent disappointment you should place an order with your dealer for a copy of each issue to be reserved for you. The price of each issue is 1d. If you experience difficulty we will mail you a copy regularly on receipt of 6d. for the next six issues, or 1s. for the next twelve.

Meccano Manuals of Instructions

There are two Meccano Manuals of Instructions, and no Meccano boy is properly equipped unless he has them both. Book No. 1 is the regular manual which goes with the main Meccano outfits. It contains illustrations and full instructions for making 326 fine models; some of the models have been designed by our own staff of experts, and others are prize-winning models contributed by Meccano boys from every country in the world. Price 2s. 6d. (postage 3d. extra).

Meccano Manual, Book No. 2, has only recently been published, and it contains illustrations and instructions for building 100 entirely new models, very many of them prize winners. It contains Tanks, Guns, Submarines, Searchlights, and other warlike models; also a new series of simple and intensely-interesting scientific experiments which any boy can make and which impart a lot of useful knowledge. Price 1s. 3d. (postage 2½d. extra).

Prices of Meccano

No.			
0	Outfit with full instructions for building		**6/-**
1	do.	do.	**10/-**
2	do.	do.	**20/-**
3	do.	do.	**30/-**
4	do.	do.	**50/-**
5	do.	do. (Carton)	**70/-**
***5**	do.	do. (Wood)	**100/-**
***6**	do.	do. (,,)	**180/-**

*In well-finished cabinet with lock and key.

Accessory Outfits

No.						
0a	converting a	**No. 0**	into a	**No. 1**	..	**5/-**
1a	do.	do. **1**	do.	**2**	..	**11/-**
2a	do.	do. **2**	do.	**3**	..	**12/-**
3a	do.	do. **3**	do.	**4**	..	**22/-**
4a	do.	do. **4**	do.	**5**	..	**17/6**
5a	do.	do. **5**	do.	**6** Car,		**65/-**
5a	do.	do. **5**	do.	**6** Wood		**95/-**
Inventor's Outfit "A"					..	**10/-**
Inventor's Outfit "B"					..	**25/-**
Meccano Clockwork Motor					..	**12/6**

Each Meccano outfit is complete with all parts and tools necessary for building models. Full instructions are included, and the youngest boy can commence to build at once without study. An accessory outfit may be purchased at any time, enabling bigger and more interesting models to be built. Additional parts may also be purchased separately, at prices given in our published lists.

Remember that though boys play with Meccano for pleasure, and though they get more genuine fun from it than from any other toy, it also gives them a sound knowledge of engineering. Through playing with Meccano, many a bright boy has been started on a prosperous career in one of the most important and profitable professions—engineering and mechanics.

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